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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/711,480	09/21/2004	Bodgan Radu	MASL-55	5479
37690	7590	11/08/2006	EXAMINER	
WOOD, HERRON & EVANS, LLP (LEAR)			TRUONG, BAO Q	
2700 CAREW TOWER				
441 VINE STREET			ART UNIT	
CINCINNATI, OH 45202			2875	
			PAPER NUMBER	

DATE MAILED: 11/08/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/711,480

Applicant(s)

RADU ET AL.

Examiner

Bao Q. Truong

Art Unit

2875

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 25 September 2006.
- 2a) ☒ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final:
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-8 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-8 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 21 September 2004 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date See Continuation Sheet.
- ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- ☐ Other: _____.

Continuation of Attachment(s) 3). Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08), Paper No(s)/Mail Date :7/6/06 & 8/10/06 & 8/23/06 & 10/19/06 & 10/25/06.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 1-4, 6, 7 and 8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Schenk et al. [US 6,315,436] in view of Anderson, Jr. et al. [US 6,464,381].

Regarding claims 1 and 8, Schenk et al. discloses an automotive interior trim assembly having a support [interior body structure of a vehicle], a storage compartment [11] having a compartment body with a first connecting member [first pivot bearing 17] integrally formed therein defining a cavity [13, 14] and an opening [15] for gaining access to the cavity, a cover [16] with a second connecting member [second pivot bearing 17] integrally therein coupled to the compartment body [at 17], the first connecting member cooperating with the second connecting member to couple the cover [16] to the compartment body [11], the cover [16] moveable between an open position and a closed position, and a shining lamp [18] molded to the compartment body to illuminate the cavity [13, 14] when the cover [16] is in the open position (figure 1, column 2 lines 40-65, column 3 lines 1-22). Schenk et al. does not clearly disclose the electroluminescent lamp.

Anderson, Jr. et al. discloses an electroluminescent lamp [12] in a vehicle interior lighting system (abstract, figure 9, column 2 lines 5-10).

It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the shining lamp of Schenk et al. with the electroluminescent lamp as taught by Anderson, Jr. et al. for purpose of minimizing an aesthetic impact of a light source when not in use and that requires negligible space behind an interior trim assembly where the light source is located.

Regarding claim 2, Schenk et al. discloses the shining lamp [18] being molded to the compartment body (figure 1).

Regarding claim 3, Schenk et al. discloses the shining lamp [18] being molded to the compartment body and a reflector [22] being mold to the cover [16] (figure 1). However, Schenk et al. does not disclose the shining lamp [18] being mold to the cover. It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the reflector with the shining lamp to directly illuminate the cavity for purpose of saving structure and lower manufacturing cost.

Regarding claim 4, Schenk et al. discloses an electric circuit for the lamp (column 3 line 7).

Regarding claim 6, Schenk et al. discloses an electrical switch [20] having open and close position to energize/de-energize the lamp (figure 1, column 3 lines 1-10).

Regarding claim 7, Schenk et al. discloses an electrical switch [20] having open and close position to energize/de-energize the lamp corresponding to open and close the cover [16] (figure 1, column 3 lines 1-15).

3. Claim 5 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Schenk et al. [US 6,315,436] and Anderson, Jr. et al. [US 6,464,381] in view of Kimisawa [US 5,158,353]

Regarding claim 5, Schenk et al. (or Anderson, Jr. et al.) discloses a power source [a battery of the vehicle], a compartment body [11], a lamp [18], and a support structure [interior body structure of a vehicle] but does not clearly disclose the first electrical connector rigidly coupled to the compartment body and the lamp and the second electrical connector rigidly coupled to the support structure and to the power source, wherein the first connector is electrically coupled to the second electrical connector when the compartment body is coupled to the support so as to energize the lamp.

Kimisawa discloses the first electrical connector [at 11b] rigidly coupled to the compartment body [6] and the lamp [11] and the second electrical connector [electrical connector to the vehicle's battery] rigidly coupled to the support structure [vehicle body structure] and to the power source [the vehicle battery], wherein the first connector is electrically coupled to the second electrical connector when the compartment body is coupled to the support so as to energize the lamp [while a separate control switch turned on] (figures 1-4, column 3 lines 7-15).

It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the compartment body and the support structure of Schenk et al. with the first and second electrical connectors as taught by Kimisawa to complete a circuitry for activating the lamp in order to provide an advantageous way of turn on a light source in a darkness conditions.

Response to Arguments

4. Applicant's arguments filed 9/25/2006 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Claim 1 and its dependent claims, the applicant recites that Schenk [U.S. 6,315,436] fails to teach or suggest a "lamp molded to one of the said compartment body and said cover". However, Schenk discloses the lamp [18] molded to the compartment body [11] (see figure 1). More over, Schenk teaches a lamp being fastened on a support (see column 1 lines 25-40).

Claim 8, the applicant argued that the first connecting member [19] and the second connecting member [22] are not quite in a manner to couple the cover to the compartment body. This is found persuasive. However, Schenk discloses two pivot bearings [17] to couple the cover to the compartment body (figure 1, column 2 lines 60-65). Moreover, the examiner believes in a car, there are a first connecting member integrally formed in a compartment body and a second connecting member integrally formed in a cover, as a locking system, to open/close/retain the cover in closed position with the compartment body.

Claim 5, the applicant recites "The lead wires (11b) are not rigidly coupled to either the card case (6) or the remainder of the vehicle body structure but move with movement of the card case (6)" (in page 10). It seems contradiction. The lead wires are not rigidly couple to the card case why the lead wires have to move with movement of the card case. Moreover, Kimisawa discloses the first electrical connector [at 11b] rigidly coupled to the compartment body [6] and the lamp [11] (figures 1-4).

In view of above, claims 1-8 are unpatentable.

Conclusion

5. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Bao Q. Truong whose telephone number is (571) 272-2383. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday (8:00 AM - 4:00 PM).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Sandra L. O'Shea can be reached on (571) 272-2378. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Bao Q. Truong
Examiner
Art Unit 2875



Sandra O'Shea
Supervisory Patent Examiner
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